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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1962

—O—

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Chairman of Council
Councillor J. H. Knight

Vice-Chairman of Council
Councillor (Mrs.) C. Kerridge

Public Health Committee

Chairman
Councillor (Mrs.) C. Harckham

Members as at 31/12/62

Councillor R. A. Carr	Councillor J. H. Knight
„ A. C. Edwards	„ (Mrs.) M. J. Piggott
„ B. P. C. Hamblin	„ W. R. Self
„ (Mrs.) C. Kerridge	

Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee
Councillors E. T. Hutley, J. H. Knight, G. Radford and
W. A. Stratford

*Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)
District Health Sub-Committee*

Councillors Mrs. M. M. Brockes and Mrs. C. Harckham

Staff

Medical Officer of Health: R. L. Goodey, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector
and Meat and Food Inspector:* D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk: M. G. Worthington

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET, ALTON, HANTS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962**

Introduction

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1962, compiled according to the requirements of the Minister.

The population in 1962 increased by 160 as the new industrial development in the town began to show its effects, although it is probable that the new brewery and the extension of the Council's housing estates will result in a greater increase to be reflected in next year's population statistics.

Possibly the matter most worthy of note during the year in the prevention of disease was the campaign of health education against lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. This is a subject which has received far less attention until now than it deserves, every attempt in 1962 was made to acquaint adolescents in the town of dangers inherent in smoking.

Throughout the year notifications of infectious disease were few, a mild form of influenza, which is not notifiable, was widespread in the early part of the year.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and encouragement, to Mr. Ings, Clerk of the Council, to Mr. Ling, Chief Public Health Inspector, and to the late Mr. Dunk, by whose death the Council lost a valued employee. I much appreciate the help of the Officers of other departments of the Council who, besides providing information for this report, have co-operated with the Public Health Department throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. GOODEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members
of Alton Urban District Council.

Part 1

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health General and Social.

Alton Urban District comprises the town of Alton and the outlying districts of Holybourne and Beech. It is an ancient town, by chance not overburdened with old dilapidated houses unsuitable for modern occupation. Housing improvement, therefore, is not generally precluded by the need to preserve houses of architectural interest which may be picturesque to look at but impossible to live in with comfort.

Alton can develop as a modern town, it is a busy centre for the surrounding countryside. It is to be hoped that Alton will develop in depth, and with the provision of the future Alton bypass it can become a compact area, predominantly residential, with factories and light industry on the periphery and the main London road at a convenient distance.

Comments on Statistics.

Some figures are not statistically significant as comparatively small numbers are involved. Increase in population is slow, the Registrar General's estimate for mid-1962 is 9,080, just over three times the population a hundred years ago. Percentage increase each year over the past four years is just over $\frac{1}{2}\%$.

Causes of Death.

Of the 112 deaths in the area during 1962, the greatest number, 55, was certified as being due to diseases of the heart and arteries, the next highest, 24 (9 male, 15 female), was due to cancer in its various forms.

The causes of some forms of industrial cancer are known, and preventive measures can, therefore, be taken. In Alton during the last 10 years 31 persons have died of lung cancer. In the words of Mr. Enoch Powell: "Smoking means you incur a risk of cancer which you would not have if you didn't smoke." In Great Britain in 1962, 26,383 people died of lung cancer, an increase of approximately 4% over the previous year. In men, 37% of all cancer deaths were from lung cancer; in women, where only 7% of cancer deaths were from lung cancer, the death rate also rose. Mortality rates from other forms of cancer showed no increase.

Chronic bronchitis and certain diseases of the arteries are also associated with smoking. Advertisements do not publicise the effects of smoking in the middle-aged, but attempt to inculcate the habit in adolescents, the majority of whom once started will continue. Morbidity statistics in this area are not directly available. In a survey in Leeds it was stated that the primary adult form of bronchitis occurred in 80% of men patients. In 1960, in England and Wales, there were 47,800 hospital admissions for

bronchitis, 1 in 5 men aged between 40 and 64 had this disease; in 1961 it accounted for over 5% of all deaths. In Alton, 5 deaths were certified as being due to bronchitis in 1962.

Diseases of the heart and arteries are another of the main causes of death. The complexity of society leads to tension, and stress may react on every organ of the body. Increasing weight means that a greater burden is placed on the heart; unaccustomed violent exercise can be considered another factor.

Infectious Diseases.

Few infectious diseases were notified during the year.

(1) Measles.

This year only one case of measles was notified, compared with 123 in 1961. As measles is biennial in its incidence a low figure for 1962 was expected. As yet no vaccine is available for protection against measles, although full scale tests have been carried out in Ghana with an American vaccine, and pilot schemes have been tried out in England. Investigation is continuing.

(2) Whooping-Cough.

In most cases immunity against whooping-cough is provided together with diphtheria by immunisation in infancy. If not prevented, whooping-cough is usually modified in the immunised; notification, therefore, has little relevance.

(3) Poliomyelitis.

There have been no cases reported for the last eight years.

(4) Diphtheria.

No cases have been reported for the last sixteen years.

(5) Tuberculosis.

Three cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1962, all female, 2 cases pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. Figures for Alton are not available, but at the beginning of the century tuberculosis caused approximately 10% of all deaths in England and Wales, and now less than one-twentieth of that figure. In Alton in 1962 one person died from tuberculosis.

(6) Food Poisoning and Dysentery.

In 1962 three persons only were reported as being infected with an organism which causes food poisoning. All three persons belonged to one family. There was little doubt that hamburgers eaten in a London cafe were responsible, and appropriate action was taken.

Dysentery can be a relatively mild disease usually spread through ineffective personal hygiene. Owing to its mildness and

shortness of duration, on occasion it is not treated and, therefore, not reported. Lack of notification does not necessarily mean no incidence.

(7) Influenza.

In the early part of the year a mild outbreak of influenza occurred. Influenza is not notifiable as such, but a rough approximation of the percentage incidence in the area can be obtained from National Insurance statistics. Of new claims in January about one-third were due to influenza.

Immunisation Schemes.

(1) Diphtheria.

Each year in the Annual Report the advisability of protecting infants against diphtheria is stressed. Every mother is approached by the Health Visitor soon after the child's birth, and at the age of four months a card is sent reminding her of the desirability of immunisation. Again at the end of a year if a child has not been immunised a further approach is made. Booster doses are available at school entry and at the age of ten, and a few primary immunisations are carried out at these ages.

In 1962 in this area, therefore, 115 primary immunisations were carried out and 153 booster injections were given. This represents 74.7% of infants immunised.

**Number of Record Cards Received during 1962,
irrespective of date of completion.**

Year of Birth	Diph. only		Diph.&W/cgh		W/cgh. only		Diph. & Tetn.		Triple	
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster
1962	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	37	—
1961	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	52	—
1960	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
1959	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1953-57	1	2	2	5	—	—	1	—	5	58
1948-52	—	62	—	5	—	—	—	1	2	17
Total	2	64	30	11	—	—	1	1	103	76

(2) Whooping-Cough and Tetanus.

Protection against these diseases is usually given in the Triple Antigen. The incidence of whooping-cough has decreased considerably in the last ten years.

(3) Smallpox Vaccination.

Vaccination against smallpox is necessary before entering certain foreign countries. It is best carried out in childhood; in October, 1962, the Ministry of Health suggested that it was best

carried out after the first birthday. There have been, and still are, conflicting opinions on vaccination, but there is no doubt that those vaccinated group for group have a lower mortality from small pox than those unvaccinated. Universal vaccination or re-vaccination for adults apart from being impossible is completely unnecessary. Following the reports of a few cases of this disease in England in early 1962, very many adults were vaccinated or re-vaccinated. The table below gives the figures for Alton.

Smallpox Vaccinations

Age at which vaccinated	Primary Vaccinations	Revaccinations
Under 1 year	124	—
1—4 years	67	19
5—14 years	193	197
15 years and over	218	970
Total	602	1186

The percentage of infants vaccinated in 1962 was 82.6, according to details supplied by the Hampshire County Council.

(4) Poliomylitis.

In 1962, Sabin oral vaccine was introduced. It has now largely replaced, in this area, Salk vaccine which was given by injection. Oral vaccine is more effective, gives more lasting immunity and is safe. It would appear that there is little demand for Salk vaccine for injection in any form.

The following statistics were received from the County Council for poliomyelitis vaccination in Alton Urban District up to the end of 1962.

Primary Vaccination (2 Salk Injections)
Total to 31st January, 1962.

Children born in the years 1943-61	...	...	...	2173
Adults born 1933-42	...	...	...	750
Persons born before 1933 who are not yet 40 years of age	...	...	...	372
Others over 40 years of age at special risk	...	...	...	71

Primary Vaccinations (2 Salk Injections and/or 3 doses Oral)
Numbers vaccinated between February 1st, 1962,
and 31st December, 1962.

Children born in 1962	...	...	...	...	2
Children born in 1961	...	...	...	...	39
Children and young persons born in years 1943-1960	...	...	...	...	18
Young persons born in years 1933-1942	...	...	...	...	13
Others	...	...	...	...	33

(5) Tuberculosis.

In March, 1962, the Mass Miniature X-Ray unit visited the town and 1,970 persons were X-rayed. At the last visit in 1960 a total of 1,878 persons attended. Vaccination against tuberculosis (B.C.G.) is available in this area in schools to all children aged 13, following a preliminary skin test.

B.C.G. Vaccination — 1962

Number of children eligible	...	...	...	...	143
Number of parental consents received	...	...	...	...	133
Number of children skin tested	...	...	...	...	132
Number of children not requiring vaccination					
				(Tuberculin positive)	11
Number of children receiving B.C.B.	...	...	...	...	112

The percentage of tuberculin positive children aged 13 in this area in 1962 was 8.9%

Accidents.

(1) On the Road.

In England and Wales there are many more deaths yearly from road accidents, about 7,000, than from all infectious diseases. Of these fatal accidents 40-50% are pedestrians, about 25% are occupants of vehicles, and 25% motor cyclists, the small remainder are pedal cyclists. Some decrease in the number of deaths might be secured if insurance policies were only valid when motor cyclists were wearing crash helmets and motorists and passengers safety harness.

In Alton, talks on road safety are given to school children by the police and there is a Road Safety Committee. Lighting in the main road is to be improved (this is being now carried out in 1963). Ro.S.P.A. leaflets are available at the local M.C.W. clinics where mothers are reminded of traffic dangers to young children.

(2) At Home.

As the number of persons reaching old age increases, and "old age" might be considered as "over 75," the planning of houses suitable for the elderly becomes more important. Inherent stability becomes less as muscles become less able to co-ordinate accurately, and old people may find it very difficult to do more than one thing at a time, such as avoiding a loosened stair-rod while listening to someone speaking, or opening a window while standing on a mat on a polished floor or linoleum. A hobbling gait leading to accidents can be improved by adequate chiropody; this is available in Alton through the Old Persons Association.

Accidents in the home for adults usually arise through inattention. Cuts and burns are frequent when the housewife has a home to run, a large family to cook for and possibly infants to feed. The obvious way to reduce casualties in this age group is

to make the design of appliances less liable to accident. Thus the design of paraffin heaters has been modified, certain washing machines are so made that the spin-dryer cuts out when the compartment lid is removed; broad based non-spill saucepans can be obtained. Further attention should be given to such factors as well as attractive finish or value as status symbol.

For children accidents to a large degree may well be due to lack of supervision or carelessness on the part of adults. All children are inquisitive, many like putting everything they can into their mouth, some will grab at any handle whether attached to a container of boiling water or not, others will experiment.

Through the courtesy of Mr. D. F. Aiano, the Secretary of Alton General Hospital, a list of persons for Alton Urban District treated in the Casualty Department for accidents in the home in 1962 has been provided. It is, of course, not exhaustive, but it gives some idea of the kind of accidents which occur. Thus under the heading "Miscellaneous" are three children under five who ate poisonous berries, a child aged two who is alleged to have swallowed 90 tablets of vegetable laxative, another who swallowed "some tablets." A child of two with a scalded shoulder, and a girl of three with both hands badly burnt due to falling into a coal fire are other units in the following table.

Accidents in the Home, 1962

Approx % of population at age group	Age	Cuts		Burns & Scalds		Falls		Miscell- aneous		Total
		m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
8%	0-4	6	4	6	2	11	11	24	14	78
15%	5-14	3	2	3	2	7	3	20	12	52
66%	15-64	5	15	2	10	5	20	23	39	119
11%	65 +	4	2	—	—	5	11	2	2	26
Total		18	23	11	14	28	45	69	67	—
		41		25		73		136		275

Thus with greater appreciation of the problems of the elderly, general improvement in design, and increased parental vigilance, accidents in the home could be reduced in all age groups.

The Elderly.

A scheme of co-operation with the Alton Rural District Council and Hampshire County Council is being worked out to provide housing for the elderly. A warden system it is hoped can be arranged. As far as possible every effort is made in Alton to keep old persons in the community. There is an Old Peoples Welfare Committee, four Old Persons Clubs, a chiropody service for the old and the Home Help Service.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

No action was necessary under Section 47 in 1962.

Factories.

Information concerning factories will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Water Supply.

The Mid-Wessex Water Company supplies the mains water in Alton, a few houses in Beech have rainwater tanks. The main supply is adequate in amount, reports are received periodically showing that it is satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically.

Sewerage, Sewage Disposal and Public Cleansing.

I am indebted to Mr. Hugh Burn, A.M.I.Mun.E., the Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information.

Water Supply.

Water in the Urban District is supplied by the Mid-Wessex Water Company, of Frimley Green, Aldershot.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The enlargement of the length of 24-inch diameter sewer, the installation of a new pump and a new 16-inch diameter rising main have been completed.

A scheme has been submitted to allow for the temporary treatment of excess flows of sewage caused by the new brewery and the old disused stormwater tanks at the treatment works have been converted to holding tanks, the effluent from which will be pumped into the sedimentation tanks during periods when the main flow decreases.

The Council's Consultants have prepared a draft scheme for the extension to the treatment works and certain aspects of the sewerage are being investigated before this is finalised.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse has continued as in previous years, and it says much for the keenness of the members of the outside staff who are concerned that, although there were delays, there was no breakdown in the service during the very bad spell immediately after Christmas and in the early weeks of 1963. Whilst ratepayers are quick to criticise any shortcomings, they are not generally inclined to realise how hard these men work to complete their rounds.

The usual precautions were taken regarding the control of flies and vermin.

Contracts have been renewed with Southern Cleansing Services, Ltd., for the regular cleansing of street gulleys.

Three men are employed on street sweeping on the roads in the town, the roads outside the town area being dealt with by the general labour force.

Swimming Baths.

There are no swimming baths in Alton. It is hoped, however, that in the near future a swimming bath will be available to serve the needs of Alton and the surrounding districts.

Health Education.

Improvements in ways of living cannot be imposed on a community, but when the advantages of certain measures are convincingly shown individuals will not be slow to change their attitude to new ideas. Young adults, being naturally impatient of the ideas of a previous generation, are most likely to be receptive, and progress usually follows demand from this age group.

It is hoped that apart from avoiding obvious risks such as preventable accidents, certain infectious diseases, conditions such as obesity, bronchitis and lung cancer due to smoking, a more positive attitude can be encouraged. The projected swimming bath is an example of this.

The scheme of Improvement Grants for houses, the provision of main water supplies and suitable housing exemplify a policy of directly improving the way of life, not merely encouraging the avoidance of practices leading to injury and ill-health.

PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Devolution of Health Functions.

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District) Health Sub-Committee comprises the area of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were:—

“In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting), Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme.”

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is administered by the County Council who supply monthly details of journeys to the Public Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to :—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station
(Telephone : Aldershot 2244)

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

National welfare foods are distributed from the following centres in Alton Urban District :—

Civil Defence Centre, Vicarage Hill. Tuesday and Friday,
2 to 4 p.m.

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitors for Alton are Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 Whitedown, Alton, (Telephone Alton 2097), and Miss D. McKenzie Flat 2c, Northfield House, Shooters Way, Basingstoke (Telephone Basingstoke 1897)

Home Help Service.

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following type of cases:—when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation; when a new baby is expected; when several members of a household are ill at one time; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VI includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone: Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

Midwifery and Home Nursing. (The first District Nurse employed as such in Alton was in 1872).

These services are administered as follows :—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1, Pond Cottages, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and General Nursing
Alton	Miss E. J. Howton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.M. 14, Elmwood Close, Alton	„ „

Relief duties to cover holidays, sickness or emergency calls are undertaken by neighbouring nurse midwives.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

The Medical Officers attending the Alton Clinics at the end of the year:—

1st Thursday	Dr. W. S. Larcombe and Dr. P. Shortt (at 2.30 p.m.)
2nd Thursday	Dr. T. C. Wilson
3rd Thursday	Dr. H. E. Larcombe
4th Thursday	Mr. A. F. Goode

School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Orthopaedic	Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford, and Liphook.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. W. Pepper, whose office is at 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Telephone Petersfield 1199—mornings only).

Area Mental Welfare Officer.

Mr. A. C. Wood, Manor Park House, Aldershot (Telephone Aldershot 20395)

Part II
(Statistics)

It will, of course be understood that with small numbers involved figures obtained are not necessarily of statistical significance.

Table 1—General Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4085
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£129,913
Sum represented by a penny rate 1962-63					£541
Population (mid-1962)	...	...	...	...	9080
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2774

Table 2—Medical Statistics.

1(a) Live Births.			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	74	65	139
Illegitimate	...	...	8	7	15
			—	—	—
Total			82	72	154

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated population,					
England and Wales (1962)	...	...	...	...	18.0
Live birth rate per 1000 of estimated population, Alton	...	...	...	...	15.9
Comparability factor 1.01, adjusted birth rate for Alton, 1962	...	...	...	...	16.1

(b) Still Births			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	1	0	1
Illegitimate	...	...	0	1	1
			—	—	—
Total			1	1	2

Still birth rate per 1000 live births	...	...	...	...	6.5
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	156

2(a) Deaths (from all causes).

Male	Female	Total
51	63	114

Death rate per 1000 estimated population, Alton	...	12.5
Comparability factor 0.96, adjusted death rate, Alton	...	12.0
Death rate per 1000 population, England and Wales (Provisional 1962)	...	11.9

(b) Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Total			2	1	3

Infant mortality per 1000 live births	...	...	...	19.5
(Infant mortality per 1000 live births, England & Wales, 1962)	...	...	...	21.4
Legitimate infant mortality per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	21.6
Illegitimate infant mortality per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—

(c) Neo-natal Mortality.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	2	1	3
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	...	...	19.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	...	...	19.5
Peri-natal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)			32.1
Maternal deaths including abortions	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and stillbirths		...	0

Table 3—Causes of Death.

	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	3	5
11	„ „ lung and bronchus ..	3	2	5
12	„ „ breast	—	3	3
13	„ „ uterus	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	7	10
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	1	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	4	9	13
18	Coronary disease, angina	13	9	22
19	Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	2	3
20	Other heart diseases	4	10	14
21	Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
22	Influenza	—	1	1
23	Pneumonia	3	2	5
24	Bronchitis	3	2	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	3	—	3
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes ..	5	8	13
33	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34	All other accidents	—	—	—
35	Suicide	1	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
	All causes	51	63	114

Table 4—Deaths according to ages.

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ..	2	1	3
1— 9 ..	—	1	1
10—19 ..	—	—	—
20—29 ..	—	—	—
30—39 ..	2	3	5
40—49 ..	1	7	8
50—59 ..	10	4	14
60—69 ..	14	11	25
70—79 ..	15	16	31
80—89 ..	7	10	17
90—99 ..	—	10	10
	51	63	114

Table 5—Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 5 years

Disease	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Scarlet Fever	0	3	7	1	0
Whooping Cough	28	13	3	1	0
Measles	20	104	4	123	1
Acute Pneumonia	13	4	2	5	1
Food Poisoning	0	1	0	0	2
Erysipelas	2	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	63	125	17	131	4

Table 6—Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 5 years)

Pulmonary	{ Male	3	2	1	1	0
	{ Female	0	1	0	0	2
Non-Pulmonary	{ Male	0	0	0	0	0
	{ Female	0	0	1	0	1
		3	3	2	1	3

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Alton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1962, on the sanitary circumstances of the district.

Progress has been made during the year on slum clearance; a further survey has been made and submitted to the Ministry, and in due course a further 40 houses will be closed or demolished. Although this is considered progress it is more destructive than progressive, and I would prefer to have the staff to improve the existing near-borderline houses and prevent their deterioration than carry out the easier form of slum clearance, namely, closure or demolition.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are contemplating insisting on 100% meat inspection. This cannot be done with the existing staff, and it is only a matter of time before qualified assistance will be imperative.

The Council lost the services of a valuable officer in the sudden death of Mr. V. F. B. Dunk, on 24th December, 1962. Mr. Dunk came to the Council as Rodent Operator in September, 1955, and was later appointed Rodent Operator/Rent Collector. The rent collection increased and, consequently, time which he spent on rodent control was reduced. Mr. Worthington stepped into the breach, and at the time of writing this report he is still there.

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. R. L. Goodey, Medical Officer of Health, my colleagues on the staff, and the Chairman and Members of the Council for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

DUDLEY M. LING,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The enforcement of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, resulted in the closure of the two licensed premises on the 1st January, 1962, until the requisite alterations and repairs had been carried out, and whilst a commencement was made on the Kent Lane premises in November, 1961, it was not until April 19th that the premises were completed and re-licenced. The throughout figures, therefore, refer to 8½ months only.

The standard of animal submitted for slaughter is extremely high and is reflected in the very small percentage of meat failing to reach the required standard.

Casualties submitted by local farmers account for a large proportion of condemnations and can only be attributed to the age-old custom of only sending a sick animal for slaughter to prevent it from dying. If owners prefer to take the risk of waiting to see if sick animals recover they must accept the fact that it is often too late to save the carcase for human consumption, and should be sent to a knackers yard (a slaughterhouse licenced for the slaughter of animals NOT intended for human consumption).

A large number of pigs' livers were condemned for *Ascarides*, a minute mudworm causing necrotic patches in the liver substance and rendering it unsaleable, and an approach has been made to a pharmaceutical manufacturers laboratory with the suggestion that a drug to combat the disease would lead to a return of fresh liver to the breakfast table, to the profit of the butcher and the pleasure of the housewife.

A consignment of lambs from one farm were received for slaughter, 20 of which had been treated with a new drug under test, and portions of the stomach and intestines from each were taken by a veterinary officer from the pharmaceutical firm responsible for the research, and further tests were made. The test animals receiving the drug were not permitted to be used for human consumption and the carcasses were destroyed.

The total weight of meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 2 tons 13cwt. 0qtrs. 6lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	485	610	1076	4723	4946
Number Inspected ..	456	584	982	4561	4423
All diseases except T.B. and cysticerci. Whole car- cases condemned	1	9	1	7	43
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	50	59	5	132	440
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	11.2	11.6	0.61	3.05	10.9
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	19
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	0.43
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Diseases for which whole Carcasses were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Emaciation	—	2	1	2	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	3	3
Fever	—	3	—	1	11	15
Moribund	—	—	—	—	1	1
Oedema	1	1	—	3	5	10
Septicaemia	—	3	—	1	23	27
Uraemia	—	—	—	—	1	1
	1	9	1	7	44	62

Return of Diseases for which organs and part Carcases were condemned

Disease	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Head :						
Abscess	—	—	—	—	2	2
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	19	19
Heart :						
Ascaris Lumbricoides	—	—	—	—	240	240
Pericarditis	—	—	1	—	66	67
Lungs :						
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	240	240
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	6	—	6
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	33	34
Strongylus rufescens	—	—	—	49	—	49
Livers :						
Abscess	19	7	—	—	—	26
Ascarides	—	—	—	—	252	252
Cavernous Angioma	—	32	—	—	—	32
Cirrhosis	3	2	—	35	16	56
Distomatosis	24	15	—	37	—	76
Echinococcus cysts	—	—	—	6	—	6
Hepatitis	—	—	1	—	66	67
Strongylus rufescens.. .. .	—	—	—	44	—	44
Tenuicolis cysts	—	—	—	3	—	3
Kidneys :						
Nephritis	—	1	—	—	4	5
Spleen :						
Peritonitis	3	—	—	—	2	5
Part Carcases :						
Abscess	—	—	—	—	5	5
Bruising	—	—	2	—	—	2
Fracture	2	2	—	2	6	12
Urticaria	—	—	—	—	—	—

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

6 (six) Licences have been issued to slaughtermen in this district. All trainees are tested in their skill in the use of a mechanically operated instrument before a licence is issued to them. In addition to Captive Bolts, a pair of electric stunners is in use at the slaughterhouse. Stand-by instruments are maintained for use in case of breakdown.

Food Condemned other than at the Slaughterhouse

Meat lbs. ozs.	Offal lbs.	Fish lbs.	Tinned Food lbs. ozs.	Poultry
965 8	28	131	336 9	54

No seizure of diseased meat or other food has been necessary during the year, but it was necessary to take decisive action to pre-

vent unsound carcase meat from being used at school kitchens in the town and surrounding area. Following complaints to the supplier the remaining meat was inspected and condemned, and the schools already supplied were quickly warned.

Food Adulteration.

This section of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, is operated by the County Council, and I am much obliged to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1963, within this area :-

1. During the year ended the 31st March, 1963, thirty samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Alton Urban District Council.

2. **Milk Samples.** Eleven samples of milk, including five of Channel Island, were obtained during the year and it is pleasing to be able to report that all were free from complaint.

3. **Miscellaneous Samples.** Nineteen samples of articles other than milk were procured and two of these were the subject of adverse reports.

Both were samples of pork sausage meat found upon analysis to be deficient of the normal minimum meat content of 65 per cent. Although there is no official standard for these products, action has successfully been taken under the general provisions of the Act where a substantial deficiency of meat was involved. These discrepancies, however, were not sufficiently serious to warrant such action and the matter was dealt with, in each case, by a written caution.

4. **General.** Attention was, as usual, given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, with regard to their application to the labelling and description of food and drugs, during inspection visits to traders and by reference to advertisements.

Milk Supplies.

Distribution of milk within the area is carried out by seven retailers, all licenced by the Council by virtue of powers vested by the Hampshire County Council.

Ice Cream.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the town, but there are now six vans plying in the area in addition to 46 registered retailers. No action in respect of contravention of the Heat Treatment Regulations has been necessary. The electronic chimes and other audible means of advertising assists the Public Health Inspector in locating the vans, and so the inspections are simplified.

Food Premises.

Those premises and vehicles retailing food were inspected from time to time, to ensure compliance with the Regulations. No

statutory action was necessary to enforce same, but many verbal, or otherwise informal, notices were issued and complied with. The food premises in the area can be summarised as follows :-

Bake-houses	2	Confectioners	11	Hotels	7
Bakers Shops	3	Dairies	1	Public Houses	13
Breweries	3	Factory Canteens	9	School Kitchens	3
Butchers	10	Fish Shops	6	Wines & Off	
Cafes	10	Food Warehouses	2	Licences	4
Chemists	3	General Stores	30	Slaughterhouses	1
Clubs	6	Greengrocers	7		

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Rodent Control and Pest Destruction.

With the increased rent collection which Mr. Dunk undertook during the first half of the year, rodent control fell behind, with Mr. Dunk supervising, on one day per week, the measures taken by the Council employees on the refuse tip and sewage disposal works, and it was considered that a part-time Rodent Operator was required to augment the free supply of warfarin which was available to all householders.

In May, 1962, Mr. K. C. E. Dance was engaged to fill this post, and once again the sewers were test-baited and treated. Unfortunately, just at the time when Mr. Dance was becoming experienced in the work, he found other employment and the Council were left without a Rodent Operator from August onwards. Mr. Dunk, by this time, was too fully engaged on rent collection to assist in rodent control, and although the free issue of warfarin continued, by the end of the year under review rodent infestations in the town were becoming widespread, and there was evidence that the sewers were becoming heavily infested.

In addition to rodent infestations the following were treated :-

Fleas	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms & Bedding	...	...	...	...	2
Wasps Nests	...	...	...	...	8
Flies	...	...	...	...	4
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	1

The Council are members of the Norths Hants Rodent Control Committee, which meet quarterly at the various Council Offices when talks are given by interested bodies regarding rodent control and pest destruction methods.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Two establishments in the district are licensed as Pet Shops. They are:—

Messrs. M. A. Rose & Son Ltd., 23, Market Street, Alton.
Mr. F. Beresford, 9, Normandy Street, Alton.

The premises are regularly visited. No contraventions of the Acts were found.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses registered in the area, the nearest being at Basingstoke.

Water Supply.

The town is supplied throughout by a piped supply by the Mid-Wessex Water Company, and reports as to purity of the water are supplied at regular intervals, and on no occasion during the year was there any degree of pollution.

Two houses in the Beech area were reported to be supplied by underground tanks which yielded a supply which, when sampled, was found to be unsatisfactory, and the owner has been required to connect these houses to the Company's main. This was still outstanding at the end of the year.

There are 2,774 dwellings in the area, which ~~2,772~~²⁷²⁴ are connected to the water main, serving an estimated population of 9,080.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewerage system and sewage disposal works are reported upon by the Engineer & Surveyor in the Medical Officer of Health's report.

Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960.

The licenced sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition, but "Fishers Meadow" continued to be occupied by caravans. The number was reduced during the year to two, and it was hoped that when the Hampshire County Council acquired the land as a site for a new school the unlicenced vans would be required to vacate. At the end of the year there were still two caravans on the site.

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with a request from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a further survey was carried out to ascertain the number of houses which were unfit and could not be rendered fit for habitation at a reasonable expense, and a list of 40 dwellings was submitted to the Council in November, 1962.

It was considered that these could be dealt with within a period of three years, taking into account the staff required to carry out the inspections and reporting, and the period of time required to absorb the occupants of these dwellings on the Council's waiting list for rehousing.

Action Taken.

(a) Houses demolished.

As a result of formal or informal procedure under
Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957

... .. 27

(b) Unfit houses closed.							
Under Sec. 16(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Unfit houses made fit.							
After informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
After formal action (a) Public Health Acts					...	...	nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957					...	...	1

Number of Inspections made.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Complaints investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Complaints justified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Housing Defects—Public Health and Housing Acts								
Inspections and revisits			..	..	..	..	..	316
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Factories (mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Factories (non-mechanical power)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Cafés, Restaurants, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Piggeries (and other animals not domestic)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Food Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, the District Council is the authority responsible for enforcing the provisions regarding sanitary accommodation in all factories and, in addition, the provision with respect to cleanliness, overcrowding, workroom temperature and ventilators and floor drainage in all factories where mechanical power is not used.

The following particulars are those prescribed on the administration of the above Acts:—

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written Notice (4)	Prosecu- tions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	11	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworks premises)	14	10	1	—

Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remed- ied (3)	Referred To H M Insp. (4)	By H M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
	3	3	—	1	—

Part VIII of the Act. (Outwork). (Sections 110 & 111).

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers in August list, required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	3	Nil	N	Nil

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

No statutory action was necessary during the year, but several intimation notices were issued in respect of ice-cream vendors' chimes, radios, record players, and a jazz-band practising in the centre of a housing estate.

Noise nuisances are not restricted to any particular age group. The more persistent appear to be among the elderly who refuse to admit hearing deficiency, and in order to relieve the monotony living alone insist on having the radio so loud that they can hear it anywhere in the house, and their neighbours anywhere in the road.

The teenager becomes so engrossed with the latest "pops" that it is thoughtlessness which allows a record player to break the still of midnight.

Portable transistor radios have not yet created a nuisance, and it has not been necessary to make a special Bye-law restricting the use of these in the Public Gardens or Anstey Park.

Health Education.

Talks have been given during the year to various bodies and organisations in the town, and particularly to food handlers at canteens and kitchens.

A meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight branch of the Association of Public Health Inspectors was held during the year at Messrs. Courage & Barclay Brewery, and the inspection of the brewery and the discussion which ensued was most instructive and interesting.

Statutory Notices

Number of Statutory Notices issued for abatement or abolition of nuisances.

	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	—	—
Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	1	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938/55	—	—
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1

Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Disinfections.

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., may still be carried out, by arrangement, at the Aldershot or Farnham Hospitals.

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease ... nil

Housing Management.

Private Properties completed in 1962	...	...	...	35
Council Properties	...	...	...	7
Families rehoused from slum clearance properties	...	...	...	2
Number of slum clearance properties vacated	...	...	...	2
Casual vacancies occurring during the year	...	...	...	24
Transfers arranged in Council property	...	...	...	18
Exchanges permitted from other Councils' property	...	...	...	2
Exchanges permitted from private property	...	...	...	nil

